

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ATHENS 01746 041514Z

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-10 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00

USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SAJ-01 SAM-01

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O 041400Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7725

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, US, GR

SUBJECT: PROMINENT PRESS TREATMENT OF ALLEGED REMARKS ATTRIBUTED TO
SECRETARY

REF: ATHENS 1705

1. ADDITIONAL ATHENS NEWSPAPERS MARCH 4 PICKED UP MARCH 2
AKROPOLIS STORY AND GAVE PROMINENT PLAY TO ALLEGED
REMARK BY SECRETARY KISSINGER (REFTEL) THAT
INTRANSIGENCE GREEK GOVERNMENT ON CYPRUS ISSUE COULD LEAD
TO FALL OF PM CARAMANLIS. AKROPOLIS WHICH FIRST CARRIED
REPORT ON MARCH 2 (ONLY AFTERNOON PAPERS PUBLISHED ON
MONDAYS AND DID NOT CARRY STORY YESTERDAY) ADDED FOLLOWING
ON MARCH 4 TO ITS EARLIER VERSION OF SECRETARY'S ALLEGED
REMARKS CLAIMING SECRETARY COMMENTED: "GREEKS OVERDO IT.
AND IF THEY DO NOT BEHAVE WELL, THEY'LL LOSE CARAMANLIS."

2. WHILE ORIGINAL AKROPOLIS STORY MARCH 2 CITED NEW YORK
CORRESPONDENT OF NICOSIA'S FILELEFTHEROS AS SOURCE OF
SECRETARY'S REMARKS, BASIS OF "OVERDO IT" AS ALLEGED
REMARK WAS WELL-INFORMED GREEK SOURCE WHO ACQUIRED
INFORMATION FROM "AMERICAN NEWSPAPERMAN."

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PAGE 02 ATHENS 01746 041514Z

3. APOYEVMATINI (SENSATIONALIST) CARRIED BANNER SIX-COLUMN HEADLINE "KISSINGER THREATENS US--IF GREEKS DO NOT BEHAVE WELL, THEY WILL LOSE CARAMANLIS," WHILE ATHENAIKI (PASOK NEWSPAPER) HEADLINED SAME STORY "GREECE THE TARGET OF AMERICANS," TA NEA (LIBERAL) IN SUBHEADING "PROPHETIC KISSINGER STATEMENT" REPORTED ALLEGED REMARKS WITH NICOSIA'S FILELETHEROS GIVEN AS SOURCE. OTHER PAPERS ALSO MADE SOME REFERENCE TO ALLEGED STATEMENT.

4. EMBASSY HAS HAD ONLY PARTIAL SUCCESS IN TRYING TO DEAL WITH THIS STORY ALONG LINES REFTEL AND CONTINUES TO BELIEVE IT DESIRABLE FOR DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN TO ADDRESS IT AND MAKE APPROPRIATE DENIAL OR CLARIFICATION AT NOON PRESS BRIEFING IN WASHINGTON.
KUBISCH

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Message Attributes

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